



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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**HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS  
TO LOWEST LEVEL IN 14 YEARS**

March Marks the 4th Straight Month Hawaii's Unemployment Rate has  
remained at or below 3.0 Percent as Hawaii's Unemployment Rate  
Declines to 2.8 Percent

**HONOLULU** - The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for March was 2.8 percent, a decline of 0.2 percent over February. The last time Hawai'i's unemployment rate was 2.8 percent was in March of 1991.

Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also went down by the same amount, going from 5.4 percent in February to 5.2 percent in March. One year ago, Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 3.6 percent, while the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.7 percent. For the past four months, Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has remained at or below 3.0 percent. In March, Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted labor force totaled 626,350 and was comprised of 608,800 employed and 17,500 unemployed.

In another measure of employment, Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobcount expanded by 800 over-the-month to 592,500. Over-the-year, the seasonally adjusted jobcount has grown by 16,900, or 2.9 percent, while excluding government, private sector jobs have gone up by 17,200, or 3.8 percent.

Over the month, Trade, Transportation, & Utilities and Other Services went up by 300 jobs respectively. Since March 2004, employment in Trade, Transportation, & Utilities has risen by 5,400 jobs. Construction and Manufacturing had no change in March over February. While growing by 2,900 jobs or 10.4 percent compared with one year ago, construction employment has remained largely stable for the past six months. Small decreases over the month were experienced in Leisure & Hospitality and Education & Health Services, which dipped slightly by 100 jobs each, and in Government, which went down by 200 jobs. Over-the-year, Leisure & Hospitality and Education and Health Services have added 3,500 jobs and 1,800 jobs respectively, while government employment has contracted by 300 jobs.

"Thanks to the Lingle-Aiona Administration's pro-jobs initiatives, long term growth in diverse private sector industries such as construction, trade, and health services continues to provide a solid foundation for our local economy and makes Hawai'i's economy one of the most vibrant in the nation," said Nelson Befitel, Director of Labor & Industrial Relations.

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